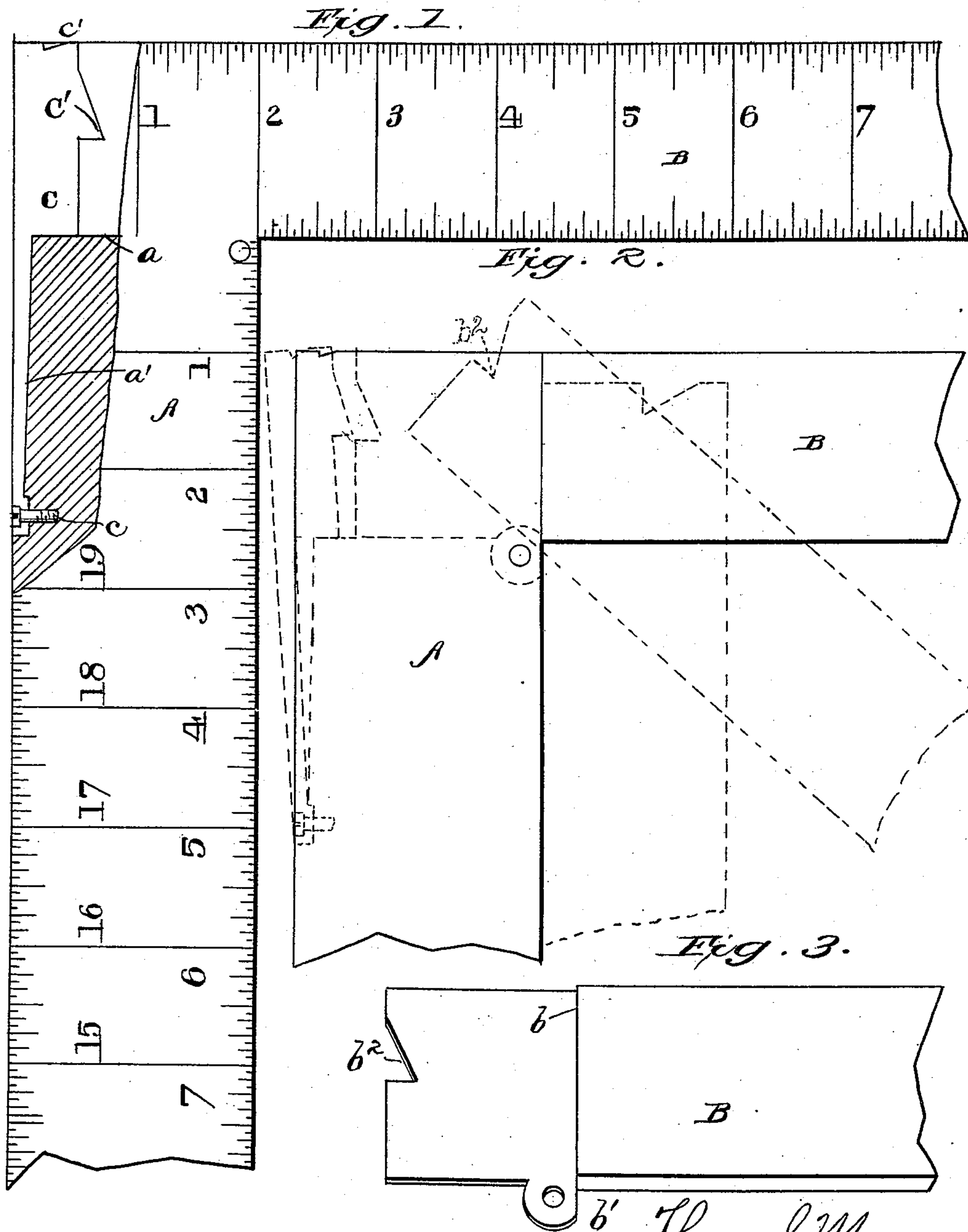


(No Model.)

T. S. MORSE.
FOLDING FRAMING SQUARE.

No. 472,902.

Patented Apr. 12, 1892.



WITNESSES:

A. J. Schwartz
J. F. Raley

Fig. 4.

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THOMAS SPURR MORSE, OF LENOX, MASSACHUSETTS.

FOLDING FRAMING-SQUARE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 472,902, dated April 12, 1892.

Application filed April 15, 1891. Serial No. 388,972. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS SPURR MORSE, a citizen of Nova Scotia, residing at Lenox, in the county of Berkshire and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Folding Framing-Squares; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to framing-squares which are constantly used by carpenters and are also used in the professions; and my invention consists in a new and improved folding framing-square which, while very simple in its construction, can be folded so as to occupy but a small part of the space required by the rigid framing-squares now in use; and my invention will be hereinafter fully described and claimed.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation, partly in section, of my new and improved folding square. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the square open in full lines and showing it in dotted lines partly and entirely closed. Fig. 3 illustrates in detail the inner end of the folding tongue, and Fig. 4 is a detail view of the spring locking-catch.

The same letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

Referring to the several parts by letter, A indicates the blade or long side of the square; and B indicates the tongue or short side. Instead of the blade and tongue being rigidly secured together, the connected end of the blade is recessed, as shown at *a*, and the inner end of the tongue B is reduced, as shown at *b*, to fit in the recess *a*, and is formed with the apertured ear *b'*, by means of which the tongue is pivoted in the blade, a small pivot passing through this apertured projection. In the outer longitudinal edge of the blade A is formed a recess *a'*, and in this recess fits the spring locking-catch C, which is secured at its lower end by the screw *c*. The catch C is provided on its inner longitudinal edge, adjacent to its upper end, with a locking-tongue C', which has its longitudinal edge beveled, whereby it will be

seen that said catch will operate automatically when the tongue is adjusted to a position at right angles to the blade. When the tongue is adjusted at right angles to the blade, the inner corner thereof will engage the beveled edge of the tongue C' and press the spring-catch C outwardly until the beveled notch *b²* in the transverse edge of the reduced inner end of the tongue reaches the beveled projection of the blade, when the said projection will be seated in the said notch and the tongue will be locked in a position at right angles to the blade. It will now be seen that when the pivoted tongue is extended out at right angles to the blade A that the spring-catch C will engage with its notched inner end, so as to lock the tongue securely in a position at right angles to the blade, when the square is ready for use.

To fold the square, it is only necessary to draw the free end of the catch outward by engaging the finger-nail in a small notch *c'*, formed in the upper end of the catch, as shown, so as to free its tongue C' from the notch *b²* in the inner end of the tongue, when the pivoted tongue can be turned down, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 2 of the drawings, until it extends along the inner side of the blade A parallel with the same.

By the construction described it will be readily perceived that the tongue is adapted to fold against the inner longitudinal edge of the blade and that when folded the square will only take up a space corresponding to the combined width of the blade and tongue.

It will be seen from the foregoing description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, that my new and improved folding framing-square is exceedingly simple in its construction and can therefore be manufactured almost, if not quite, as cheaply as the solid square now in use. The carpenter's chest or tool-box must be made twice as large as is necessary for the accommodation of his tools in order to enable the solid square to be placed therein; but by means of my folding square the size of this chest or tool-box can be reduced one-half, as the square when folded is very compact and requires no more room than any of the other tools. There being no pressure on the spring-lock, except

at the moments when locking or unlocking the pivoted tongue, it will wear for an indefinite period without weakening in any way.

5 The parts of the folding square being all formed of hardened steel, the square is practically indestructible and will last a life-time.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

10 In a folding framing-square, the combination, with the blade having a recess in its outer longitudinal edge at its connected end and also having said end recessed, the spring-catch seated in the recess in the longitudinal
15 edge of the blade and connected at its lower end to said blade, the locking-tongue formed on the inner longitudinal edge of said catch

adjacent to the free end thereof and having its longitudinal edge beveled, and a notch formed in the free end of the spring-catch, of 20 the tongue having the recessed inner end pivotally connected to the blade, and the beveled notch formed in the inner end of said tongue and adapted to be engaged by the beveled tongue of the spring-catch when the tongue 25 is adjusted at right angles to the blade, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

THOMAS SPURR MORSE.

Witnesses:

J. T. PARSONS,

EDWARD P. HALE.